

Assembly resolution 38/20 of 22 November 1983 and of the present resolution;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session of the views and suggestions expressed at the above-mentioned meeting, if it is convened.

*100th plenary meeting
16 December 1983*

38/118. Principles of Medical Ethics

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 37/194 of 18 December 1982, by which it adopted the Principles of Medical Ethics relevant to the role of health personnel, particularly physicians, in the protection of prisoners and detainees against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Alarmed that not infrequently members of the medical profession or other health personnel are engaged in activities which are difficult to reconcile with the Principles of Medical Ethics,

Recognizing the need for the full application of the Principles of Medical Ethics and desiring that the Principles be given wide publicity,

1. *Urges* all Governments to take measures with a view to promoting the application by all health personnel and Government officials, in particular those employed in institutions of detention or imprisonment, of the Principles of Medical Ethics relevant to the role of health personnel, particularly physicians, in the protection of prisoners and detainees against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to disseminate the Principles of Medical Ethics widely and in as many languages as possible and to issue a pamphlet containing the text of the Principles in the six official languages of the United Nations;

3. *Calls upon* all Governments to give the Principles of Medical Ethics the widest possible distribution, in particular among medical and paramedical associations and institutions of detention or imprisonment, in an official language of the State;

4. *Invites* all relevant intergovernmental organizations, in particular the World Health Organization, and non-governmental organizations concerned to bring the Principles of Medical Ethics to the attention of the widest possible group of individuals, especially those active in the medical and paramedical field;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the steps taken by the United Nations and the relevant specialized agencies, as well as by Governments, for the dissemination and implementation of the Principles of Medical Ethics.

*100th plenary meeting
16 December 1983*

38/119. Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 3452 (XXX) of 9 December 1975,

Bearing in mind article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹⁷⁰

Recalling also its resolution 32/62 of 8 December 1977, in which it requested the Commission on Human Rights to draw up a draft convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, in the light of the principles embodied in the Declaration, and its resolution 32/63 of 8 December 1977,

Recalling further that the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, in its resolution 11 of 5 September 1980, expressed the belief that the draft convention should be finalized at the earliest possible time,¹⁷¹

Considering that it was not possible to complete the work on the draft convention during the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights,

1. *Welcomes* Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/38 of 27 May 1983, in which the Council authorized a meeting of an open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights for a period of one week prior to the fortieth session of the Commission in order to complete the work on a draft convention;

2. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to complete, at its fortieth session, as a matter of the highest priority, the drafting of a convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, with a view to submitting a draft, including provisions for the effective implementation of the future convention, to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session;

3. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-ninth session the item entitled "Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

*100th plenary meeting
16 December 1983*

38/120. Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General concerning preparations for the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa¹⁷² and the sections on Africa contained in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,¹⁷³

Recalling its resolutions 37/197 of 18 December 1982, entitled "International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa", and 38/5 of 28 October 1983 on co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,

Bearing in mind resolution AHG/Res.114 (XIX) on the Second Conference, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African

¹⁷⁰ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

¹⁷¹ See *Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Caracas, 25 August-5 September 1980: Report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IV.4), chap. I, sect. B.

¹⁷² A/38/526.

¹⁷³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/38/12 and Corr.1) and Supplement No. 12A (A/38/12 Add.1).*

Unity at its nineteenth ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 6 to 12 June 1983.¹⁷⁴

Gravely concerned at the persistent and serious problem of large numbers of refugees on the African continent,

Aware of the economic and social burden borne by African countries of asylum on account of the presence of these refugees and its consequences for their national development and of the heavy sacrifices made by them, despite their limited resources.

Recognizing the universal collective responsibility of sharing the urgent and overwhelming burden of the problem of African refugees through effective mobilization of resources to meet the urgent and long-term needs of the refugees and to strengthen the capacity of countries of asylum to provide adequately for the refugees while they remain in those countries, as well as to assist the countries of origin in the rehabilitation of voluntary returnees,

Recognizing that the achievement of durable solutions to refugee problems, in particular voluntary repatriation and local integration, calls for generous humanitarian and developmental assistance to the affected countries, as well as for efforts to address the causes of refugee situations.

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General concerning preparations for the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa;

2. *Approves* the proposed Conference arrangements contained in paragraph 17 of the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite all States to participate in the Conference at the ministerial level and to invite also the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in the Conference at a high level;

4. *Appeals* to the international community, all States, specialized agencies and regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide the utmost support for the Conference with a view to offering maximum financial and material assistance to refugees in Africa and to ensuring the success of the Conference;

5. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to the countries of asylum for the generous contribution and the sacrifices that they are making to alleviate the plight of refugees;

6. *Commends* those countries that are supporting programmes for refugees and returnees for their continued assistance and calls upon them, as well as other States and international organizations, to assist and co-operate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the promotion of durable solutions;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Organization of African Unity and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to ensure that, in the period leading up to the Conference, all appropriate measures are taken so that Member States, in particular principal donors, are kept fully informed of the priority needs of the affected countries and that contacts are established in the capitals concerned to mobilize the necessary support and resources;

8. *Notes with satisfaction* the action taken by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to initiate public information programmes to increase public awareness of the refugee situation in Africa and the objectives of the Conference;

9. *Requests* the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and other competent bodies of the United Nations system to co-operate closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to ensure that the maximum amount of publicity is given to the refugee situation in Africa, as well as to the Conference and its objectives;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*100th plenary meeting
16 December 1983*

38/121. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office,¹⁷⁵ as well as the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on the work of its thirty-fourth session,¹⁷⁶ and having heard the statement made by the High Commissioner on 14 November 1983,¹⁷⁷

Recalling its resolution 37/195 of 18 December 1982,

Reaffirming the eminently humanitarian and non-political character of the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner,

Noting with deep concern that problems of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner remain acute in all parts of the world, notably in Africa, Asia and Latin America,

Stressing the fundamental importance of the High Commissioner's international protection function and the need for States to co-operate with the High Commissioner in the exercise of this essential function,

Expressing serious concern over the difficulties encountered by the High Commissioner in the exercise of his international protection function in the face of continued violations of the basic rights of persons of concern to his Office,

Deeply concerned that in various regions the safety and welfare of refugees and asylum-seekers have been seriously jeopardized on account of military or armed attacks, acts of piracy and other forms of brutality,

Acknowledging with appreciation the note of the Executive Committee on the strengthening of the management policy of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, submitted by the High Commissioner,¹⁷⁸ and the High Commissioner's efforts to strengthen the management of his Office,

Noting that the Executive Committee has requested the High Commissioner to undertake a comprehensive study of the full financial and practical implications of the inclusion of Arabic, Chinese and Spanish among the official and working languages of the Executive Committee,

Noting with deep appreciation the valuable support extended by many Governments to the High Commissioner in carrying out his duties.

¹⁷⁴ See A/38/312, annex.

¹⁷⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/38/12 and Corr.1).*

¹⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 12A (A/38/12/Add.1).

¹⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, Thirty-eighth Session, Third Committee, 42nd meeting, paras. 28-37.

¹⁷⁸ A/AC.96/HCR/EC/SC.2/15/Add.1.